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For Immediate Release

Dubuque Teacher Receives \$25,000 Milken Award

(Des Moines, Iowa) – October 7, 2004 – A Dubuque teacher today received a 2004 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Tammy Duehr, a first and second grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School, learned of the honor during a surprise announcement made in person by Jane Foley of the Milken Family Foundation and Judy Jeffrey, interim director of the Iowa Department of Education. The Milken Educator honor carries with it a \$25,000 financial award, to be used at the recipient's discretion.

Duehr earned the honor in part because of her leadership in instructional practices to help improve student achievement, particularly in the Every Child Reads initiative. She also is a member of the State Wide Reading Team that provides research and training on instructional techniques to other teachers. Duehr is particularly skilled at diagnosing learning barriers and working with families to develop solutions. Her students consistently demonstrate high student achievement and academic growth. Duehr was named Dubuque Teacher of the Year in 2001, and earned the Gold Star Teaching Award in 2001.

Duehr has taught at Eisenhower Elementary for eight years, and at Table Mound in Dubuque and in Houston, TX, previously. She earned her bachelor's degree from Clarke College and her master's degree from Southern Connecticut State. Previous Milken winners from Dubuque include Annette Hagelberg from Wahlert High School in 1997.

Duehr is one of two Iowa educators receiving the Milken Educator Award for 2004. The other recipient, Greg O'Connell, an elementary educator at Grant Wood Elementary in Cedar Rapids, was notified earlier today.

A blue ribbon committee appointed by the Iowa Department of Education selects the Milken Educator recipients in a confidential process that does not include a nomination or application.

Duehr and O'Connell will be presented their \$25,000 awards during ceremonies at the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference in Washington DC in May 2005. A total of 100 educators in 47 states will receive a 2004 Milken Educator Award. The award goes to elementary educators one year, followed by secondary educators the next. ###

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